Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7649

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBA SY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USNMR SHAPE BEL

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
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USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PORG, CY, TU, UN

SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS O GOC REJECTION OF TURKISH PROPOSALS FOR

RESUMPTION OF TALKS

REF: NICOSIA 1048 (DTG 191725Z APR 78)

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1. FIRST QUESTION WHICH ARISES IN WAKE OF GOC'S UNQUALIFIED REJECTION OF TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS IS WHETHER THERE IS ANY LIKELIHOOD INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS CAN BE RECONVENED. ALL THREE IMMEDIATE PARTIES TO TALKS HAVE LEFT THIS OPTION OPEN, AT LEAST TO A SLIGHT DEGREE. UNSYG WALDHEIM SAID HE WOULD STUDY SITUATION IN LIGHT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS IN NICOSIA AND

THEN DECIDE NEXT STEP IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS. TFSC PRESIDENT DENKTASH SAID APRIL 19 THAT BALL WAS IN HANDS OF SECRETARY GENERAL. EVEN KYPRIANOU, IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, CONCEDED THAT DECISION WHETHER TO CALL FOR RENEWAL OF TALKS WAS UP TO WALDHEIM, AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD LATTER WOULD MAKE DECISION NEXT WEEK. THUS THREE PARTIES AGREE THAT, UNDER PROCEDURES LAID DOWN IN JANUARY, SECRETARY GENERAL COULD DECIDE TO RECONVENE TALKS.

- 2. HOWEVER, KYPRIANOU MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN GOC VIEW
 "THE TURKISH PROPOSALS ARE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE AND
 CAN IN NO WAY FORM A BASIS FOR RESUMPTION OF THE
 INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS." HE INDICATED HE CONSIDERED IT A
 REAL POSSIBILITY THAT, IN LIGHT OF HIS CONSULTATIONS ON
 THE PROPOSALS, SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD NOT RECONVENE
 TALKS. IF SYG SHOULD, IN SPITE OF WHAT KYPRIANOU CALLED
 THE HUGE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, CALL FOR TALKS,
 GOC WOULD NOT NECESSARILY FEEL BOUND TO ATTEND; KYPRIANOU
 SAID GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WOULD DECIDE ON THIS MATTER WHEN AND
 IF IT AROSE.
- 3. IF SECRETARY GENERAL DOES DECIDE TO CONVOKE TALKS, THERE WILL BE GOOD DEAL OF PRESSURE ON GOC NOT TO REFUSE OUTRIGHT TO ATTEND. GOC IS ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION, ESPECIALLY IN THE U.N. AND CONFIDENTIAL

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IN U.S. CONGRESS ON THE EMBARGO ISSUE. ANY APPEARANCE OF INTRANSIGENCE ON GOC'S PART COULD DAMAGE ITS CHANCES OF GETTING FAVORABLE RESOLUTIONS FROM THE U.N. AND MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO LIFTING OF EMBARGO. ON OTHER HAND, RESUMPTION OF TALKS MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS PROGRESS ON CYPRUS PROBLEM AND ALSO HELP IN LIFTING EMBARGO. WE BELIEVE GOC WOULD CAREFULLY CALCULATE WHERE ITS GREATER ADVANTAGE LAY AND, AT LEAST, RESPORT TO DELAYING TACTICS, PERHAPS BY DEMANDING THAT SYG GO BACK TO TURKS FOR MORE CONCESSIONS BEFORE SITTING DOWN TO TABLE. IN ANY CASE WE EXPECT GOC TO EMBARK ON PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN (INDEED, IT ALREADY HAS) TO CONVINCE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS DO NOT PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

4. QUESTION ALSO ARISES WHETHER PRESENT PROPOSALS MIGHT BE REWORKED TO MAKE THEM MORE APPEALING TO GREEK CYPRIOTS. THIS POSSIBILITY SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY RULED OUT BY KYPRIANOU'S DECLARATION THAT "IT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION THAT THEY CAN BE IMPROVED TO THE POINT OF BECOMING NEGOTIABLE." MOREOVER, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT TURKISH SIDE WOULD BE WILLING TO ALTER PROPOSALS BEFORE TALKS BEGAN OR THAT SYG WOULD BE WILLING TRY TO CONVINCE

TURKS TO DO SO. THEREFORE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT TALKS MUST BE RESUMED ON BASIS OF PRESENT PROPOSALS OR NOT AT ALL, AT LEAST UNTIL THE U.S. CONGRESS MAKES ITS DECISION ON THE EMBARGO.

5. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, IT APPEARS THAT IT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO CALL FOR RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HIS CALL WOULD HAVE TO BE COUCHED IN TERMS THAT WOULD CONVINCE GREEK CYPRIOTS THAT ONUS FOR FAILURE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS AGAIN WOULD FALL ON THEM. MODEST NATURE OF TERRITORIAL PROPOSALS AND UNCOMPROMISING NATURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS OFFER LITTLE BASIS FOR SYG'S ISSUING SUCH A CALL. FURTHERMORE, IF GREEK CYPRIOTS RETURN TO TALKS ONLY UNDER CONFIDENTIAL

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COERCION, NEGOTIATIONS WOULD, WE EXPECT, QUICKLY BREAK DOWN IN MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS. THUS, WE RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDE THAT GOOD-FAITH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TWO COMMUNITIES IS NOT IN THE PICTURE FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLICIES, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 apr 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NICOSI01060
Document Source: CORE
Document History ID: 00 **Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A **Expiration:** Film Number: D780169-0504 Format: TEL From: NICOSIA Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path: ISecure: 1 Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780435/aaaabdgu.tel Line Count: 141 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes: Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5a6179aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 NICOSIA 1048 Retention: 0 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 17 may 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2903148 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: IMPLICATIONS O GOC REJECTION OF TURKISH PROPOSALS FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS

TAGS: PGOV, PORG, CY, TU, UN
To: STATE USEEC

Type: TE

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Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014